

TRADEWINDS

CGC KUKUI NEWSLETTER

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Maui ATON Patrol

On January 2, 2014 KUKUI started out the New Year right by doing what we do best: ATON. Before heading over to the Valley Isle, KUKUI worked Sampan Channel Lighted Buoy #2 in Kaneohe Bay on the Northeast side of Oahu. A concerned mariner had reported the Sampan Channel buoy as riding low; when KUKUI arrived, the buoy had barely any freeboard. This buoy proved particularly difficult since KUKUI experienced a gyrocompass casualty earlier and was forced to navigate using our magnetic compass. Winds gusting up to thirty knots, shifting tides, and a rolling swell from the North added to the challenge, however KUKUI completed the evolution safely and left the buoy watching properly.



Deck Department helps the Dive Team load up the small boat to work buoys in Kahului Channel, Maui.

Continued on the next page.

**Welcome aboard to our newest
crewmembers:**

**MK3 Jesse Robb
SN Eric Wood
SA Devan "Kevin" Wiczorek
SA Dustyn "Dusty" Weems
FA Luke Mooney**

**Fair winds and following seas to
SN Anthony "A-Rod" Rodriguez!**

Sailor of the Quarter: FN Keliikalani Ramos



MKC Mertz congratulates FN Ramos after he was awarded SOQ Fall 2013.

KUKUI's Fall 2013 Sailor of the Quarter is FN Keliikalani Ramos! FN Ramos is a member of the Damage Control Division in the Engineering Department. Congratulations FN Ramos. Keep up the great work!

MAUI ATON PATROL

(CONTINUED)



A lift bag holds up the chain as divers conduct a topside disconnect on Kahului Channel Buoy #1.



The Dive Team and small boat crew tow out two new replacement buoys to Kahului Harbor Entrance Channel.

After working the Sampan Channel buoy, KUKUI transited east to Maui. KUKUI moored and the Dive Team worked five buoys in the Kahului Harbor Entrance Channel. After completing our ATON work, the crew enjoyed a well-deserved port call on Maui and had two days to explore the island before getting back underway again. On the transit back home, KUKUI completed numerous drills in preparation for TSTA.

KUKUI Hosts 30 Sea Cadets

On February 8 and 23, 2014 KUKUI hosted thirty local Naval Sea Cadets. While onboard, the high school and middle school aged cadets learned about the U.S. Coast Guard and got hands on experience learning basic damage control, first aid, and seamanship skills. Special thanks to all of the crewmembers who volunteered over the weekend to make the event possible!



MK3 Robb teaches the cadets how to use a "Z" kink.



Group shot of the Sea Cadets on February 8, 2014.



SA Weems helps a Sea Cadet don the fire-fighting ensemble.

DECK DEPARTMENT

BY SN ERIC WOOD

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

BY FNMK MITCH HOPPER

Greetings from the World of Deckies! This past quarter we've gotten some new faces and have been busy training and learning. At the beginning of December, KUKUI's Deck Department was visited by the Buoy Deck Training Team (BDTT). The team taught us a lot about working ATON.



KUKUI and WALNUT's Deck Force work a buoy with BDTT in early December.

We also had to get ready for TSTA. During TSTA, Deck Force played a vital role in all of the many drills that The Mighty Coast Guard Cutter KUKUI completed. From BM1 Laughlin fighting the fires in MMR to SN Thompson creating a strong, intimidating command presence during our Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) drills, Deck Force helped contribute to KUKUI earning the Battle E, which is an honor.

After TSTA was complete we began getting ready for our voyage across the mighty Pacific Ocean to reach our temporary home for dry dock: Alameda, California. Before the trip we welcomed some new faces into our group; namely SA Weems and SA Wiczorek, as well as Baby Kinsey (daughter of BM2 Ryan and Brittany Miller). On the journey our two newest crew members were quick to get qualified in Helm and Lookout to ease the rotation for other deckies.

In the yard we are taking back the ship! (When I say this, I mean making her as rust free as possible.) We have many needle-gunning, grinding, and painting projects ahead of us to restore our ship. Hopefully by the time we return to Honolulu we'll look brand new!

Life in a Day of a Fireman MK

We muster with the crew

Waiting for the chance to hear what we have to do.

"Clean the bilge and wipe up that oil!" Chief screams.

We have to get the ship ready, for California she steams!

On a black hull, the work is never done.

Keeping her running smooth – from Hawaii to the California sun.

We MK's can fix anything, from air handlers to the buoy deck crane.

In the life of a fireman MK, there isn't much room left to complain.

This is our job, the ship is our home, the crew our family, and the sea our office.

Just starting out, comparatively speaking, I'm just a novice.

Our boat high and dry, up in the air,

The engineers will strip her bare.

Hard hats and safety glasses; steel-toed boots and longer days.

Cold weather and long sleeves down. There is no chance to catch any rays.

The day of a FNMK is a simple one, do what you're told and don't talk smack.

Earn our respect and we'll always have your back.



DC1 Phil Soto and DC3 Joshua Marks perform hydrostatic tests on KUKUI's fire hoses.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

BY BM2 PARKER DAWSON

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

BY SK2 TECHIEL LABORCE

Since December, the Navigation Division has been part of day-to-day operations as well as the planning and execution of the ship's schedule. The Nav Team prepared the San Francisco charts for the transit to dry dock, which involved making corrections, plotting track lines, turn bearings, turn ranges, and preparing gazetteers. KUKUI passed all the Navigation Drills for TSTA, achieving an average score of 97%! Members of the Nav Team do not only do bridge work – we also assist the Deck Department and Dive Team with small boat ops. Unscheduled work to correct buoy discrepancies did not faze members of the Nav Team when we were tasked to get underway on KUK II and correct issues with Ala Wai Harbor Lighted Buoys #1 and #2. The multi-faceted Nav Team performs small boat operations and continuously keeps the bridge fully functional.



Members of the Food Services Division and the Mess Cooks.

In the galley, members of the Food Services Division worked hard, cooking throughout CART, TSTA, and stand-down periods to make sure that the crew was well-fed. FS3 Warner earned a coin from the District 14 Commander, Admiral Thomas, for preparing an excellent meal on Thanksgiving. FS2 Hassilev prepared a delicious prime rib dinner for members of the duty section on Christmas Day. The galley provided great food, as well as well-loved traditions like “Sunday Sundaes” while KUKUI was underway.

During the months of December through February, your local Storekeepers have inventoried \$593,833.57 worth of CMPLUS parts! We have also purchased \$81,402.28 worth of supplies and services. CART was a fun-filled adventure, and we also had a field trip to the Cage for some early spring cleaning.



HS1 Desiree Dias, Medical Training Team Leader, reviews a drill card during TSTA.

During TSTA, HS1 Dias was responsible for planning and evaluating all of the medical drills. There are more medical drills than any other type of drill during TSTA (21). Under her instruction, members manning the Battle Dressing Station (BDS) earned a 99% average. Bravo Zulu to BDS!



“Specht-ulation” abound as to whom would be named KUKUI’s next Command Chief. Allay your fears and worries, MKC Eric Specht has taken the helm as KUKUI’s next Command Chief... Congratulations!

A special thanks to BMC Morgan Adkins for his leadership; good luck as XPO at CG Station Noyo River, CA. MCPO Chris Windnagle (D14-CMC) presided over the change of watch.

THE DIVE LOCKER

BY BM1 DAVID PARTIN

Greetings from the denizens of the deep. The gluttons for punishment have been back at it again. First, we would like to give MK3 Jesse Robb a HOOYAH! Congratulations on graduating 2nd Class Diver Training, and welcome aboard!

In December our safety coordinator, MKC Chuck Sowers, from NAVSAFCEN in Virginia came onboard to conduct what's known in the fleet as a *Dive Assist*. The Dive Assist is an excellent opportunity for the Dive Team to discuss any safety concerns and conduct drills in the more hospitable "training mode," versus the "evaluative mode" that comes with the Operational Readiness Assessment. MKC Sowers conducted a total of six drills with the team, ranging from no problems to unconsciousness caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. The Dive Assist also provided an opportunity for some aids to navigation diving cross training and showcased the team's abilities to safely conduct operations. All in all it was a successful visit resulting in a positive endorsement from our Safety Center representative.



YN1 (DV1) Kamalo checks LTJG Devine's gear as MK3 Robb, LTJG Devine, and MK2 Zapara prepare to enter the water as safety divers.

After the Christmas holiday the team got wet in Maui and serviced five buoys in Kahului Harbor, ensuring the shoal water stays well marked for the next few years. In February, Cutter KUKUI divers assisted U.S. Army Rangers of the 25th Infantry Division "Tropic Lightning" during their high risk pool training evolutions. KUKUI divers facilitated the dangerous waterborne survival course, acting as safety divers on the bottom of the pool. KUKUI divers assisted rangers who sank to the bottom of the pool by having air available and assisting them back to the surface.



MK3 Robb returns a rifle that one of the prospective Army Rangers dropped.

The dive team is shifting focus from operations to maintenance and training for the next two months in preparation for the Diving Operational Readiness Assessment or DORA (as it is affectionately referred to). We will also transition the Dive Team to some colder, darker waters as the Cutter undergoes a prolonged dry dock availability in Alameda, California. HOOYAH and DEEP SEA!



In February, crew from KUKUI competed in the Honolulu Coast Guard Basketball League! A crewmember gets around a RUSH defender.

CART AND TSTA

This winter KUKUI powered through a rigorous set of inspections known as CART and TSTA. CART stands for Command Assessment of Readiness and Training, and is the precursor to TSTA, which stands for Tailored Ship's Training Availability. During the CART inspection on December 3 through December 5, 2013, members of the Afloat Training Group (ATG) in Pearl Harbor evaluated the effectiveness of the Integrated Training Team by gauging the Cutter's ability to respond to emergencies. The Integrated Training Team consists of members from the Communication, Damage Control, Engineering, Medical, and Navigation and Seamanship Training Teams onboard KUKUI. They are all responsible for running frequent drills and ensuring the crew knows how to respond quickly and appropriately to emergency situations. CART went well, and the crew was able to learn some valuable lessons to incorporate into our emergency responses.



Two crewmembers respond to a class Alpha fire in a berthing area as part of a drill during TSTA.

After a short break for the holidays and an ATON trip to Maui, KUKUI went straight into TSTA from January 20 to February 7, 2014. During TSTA, KUKUI was again evaluated by Afloat Training Group riders from Pearl Harbor to ensure that we are correctly following Coast Guard and Navy operational, training, and maintenance policies. To demonstrate our proficiency, KUKUI ran ninety-five drills focused on damage control, engineering casualty control, navigation and seamanship, medical, communication, gunnery, and anti-terrorism force protection emergency responses.



The nozzleman engages the class Alpha fire.

Together, the KUKUI crew proved that we are proficient at responding to emergency situations onboard our Cutter by earning an average drill score of 96.5%. KUKUI was recognized with Excellence Awards in Seamanship, Damage Control/Medical, Engineering, and Command and Control. These awards will be prominently displayed on the superstructure of the ship with the letter "E" and "DC."



EM1 Worrell, a member of the Damage Control Training Team, reviews a drill card with DC1 Alton from ATG Everett, WA.

KUKUI MORALE

On December 13, 2013 KUKUI crew, family, and friends gathered at the Dave & Buster's in Honolulu to celebrate the holidays and get to know each other. Thanks to everyone who came for making it a good time!



BM2 Ryan and Brittany Miller had the most festive outfits!



SN Armond Thompson, SN Mikey Ramos, FNMK "Breezy" McBride, and FS3 Brittany Warner enjoying the sunset.



EM1 Kenny Worrell, SN Armond Thompson, FN Keliokalani Ramos, SN Mikey Ramos and MK3 Mark Rivas.



The Adkins Family and Mrs. Diane Bracy enjoy snacks on the Sunset Lanai at Dave & Buster's.

XO's Corner

During the past several months, KUKUI's outstanding crew demonstrated their prowess at running the ship through several important inspections and evaluations. Deck Force partnered with our sister ship WALNUT for some great training during a visit by the Buoy Deck Training Team, and our Engineering Department kept the machinery plant running in top form throughout these winter months. The Operations Department, Support Department and Dive Team all played key roles that allowed us to successfully carry out the Aids to Navigation mission and port visit in Kahalui, Maui. We also took on the challenge of CART & TSTA. One way to think about TSTA is to consider it as the "final exam" measuring readiness. KUKUI's crew passed it with flying colors! I am confident that our crew and families will remain resilient as we embark upon the upcoming maintenance period.

KUKUI KEIKI

The youngest members of the KUKUI family!



David Partin II (age 6) helps his Dad out.



Titus (age 8), Bryan (18 months), Grace (age 10), and Noah (age 12) Adkins.



Left: Jacob Fetzer (age 5)
hanging out in KUKUI's log
office.

Center: Welcome Aboard Kinsey
Jeanne Miller!

Born Jan. 11, 2014

7 lbs 9 ozB

Below: Pierce Dawson (age 2).



Captain's Cabin

As I write my comments we sit in drydock in Alameda, California doing important work to ensure the KUKUI remains a viable asset in the Coast Guard Cutter inventory now and well into the future. The crew continues to perform above expectations regardless of the challenges and changes they face on a daily basis. By living the motto "**Prepare, Adapt and Keep Moving Forward!**", we made it through an extensive, unplanned casualty repair period, expertly tackled an intense training cycle, and safely performed our primary mission set before embarking upon our current journey in drydock. The long hours, the great distance, and the separation from loved ones can be burdensome and stressful...I am ever thankful for the dedicated love and support of our families and friends – you provide us the strength to remain focused and successful. The focus of this extensive, planned maintenance period is captured in these watchwords, for together we will ensure: **Integrity** of our hull, **Reliability** of our equipment, and **Habitability** improvements for the crew.